Jude 1:17-25

Week 4: Kept by Christ, Called to Persevere Jude 1:17–25 | Standing Firm in the Grace That Holds Us

Big Idea: We can stand firm in a compromising world because God faithfully preserves His people through His Word, His Spirit, His love, and His mercy.

Primary Emphasis: Our confidence in the Christian life is not ultimately found in how tightly we hold on to Jesus, but in the promise that He will faithfully hold on to us.

Discussion Questions

1. *Have you ever experienced a season when you felt spiritually weary, discouraged, or uncertain about your ability to remain faithful? What helped you keep going?*
2. *In verses 17–19, Jude calls believers to remember the warnings of the apostles. Why is remembering God's Word such an important defense against deception and spiritual compromise?*
3. *Jude describes those who cause divisions, follow worldly passions, and are devoid of the Spirit. How can we distinguish between healthy disagreement among Christians and the kind of divisiveness Jude condemns?*
4. *In verses 20–21, Jude identifies several ways Christians should respond to spiritual danger: building themselves up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping themselves in God's love, and waiting for Christ's mercy. How do these practices work together to help believers persevere?*
5. *What does it mean to "keep yourselves in the love of God" (v. 21)? How does this command fit with Jude's earlier assurance that believers are already loved and kept by God (v. 1)?*
6. *Jude instructs believers in verses 22–23 to show mercy to those who doubt and to seek to rescue others from spiritual danger. What does this teach us about the appropriate way to respond to people who are struggling, questioning, or wandering from the faith?*
7. *Of the spiritual practices Jude highlights in verses 20–21, which is currently strongest in your life? Which needs the most intentional attention, and why?*

8. *Why do you think Christians sometimes respond to doubt, spiritual struggle, or doctrinal confusion with frustration, suspicion, or judgment instead of patience and mercy? How could our Gospel Communities become safer places for honest questions and struggles?*
9. *How can we demonstrate compassion toward people who are caught in sin or influenced by false teaching without compromising biblical truth? What would it practically look like to combine mercy with discernment?*
10. *As you reflect on this entire series through Jude, what particular pressure toward compromise have you become more aware of? What would it look like to stand firm in that area during the coming weeks?*

Gospel Connection

11. *In verses 24–25, Jude praises God as the One who is able to keep us from stumbling and present us blameless before His glory with great joy. How does this promise strengthen your assurance of salvation and change the way you approach your ongoing struggle against sin?*

Closing Reflection

12. *Jude begins by describing believers as those who are kept for Jesus Christ and ends by praising the God who is able to keep us from stumbling. How does knowing that God is the One who ultimately keeps you give you courage to contend for the faith, persevere through difficulty, and encourage others to do the same?*

Leader Notes Theological foundations

- Remembering the truth protects us from deception (vv. 17–19). Jude reminds believers that opposition and spiritual corruption should not surprise them. The apostles had warned that such challenges would arise.
- Perseverance involves intentional participation in God's means of grace (vv. 20–21). Believers are called to remain grounded in the apostolic faith, pray in dependence on the Holy Spirit, abide in God's love, and maintain a confident hope in the mercy of Christ.
- God's preserving grace and our perseverance are complementary truths. The command to keep ourselves in God's love does not mean that salvation ultimately depends on our effort. Rather, God graciously preserves His people as they continue trusting and following Him.

- Contending for the faith must include compassionate care (vv. 22–23). Jude's instructions demonstrate that different situations require different responses. Doubters need patient mercy. Those endangered by serious error may need urgent intervention. Mercy should always be joined to holiness and discernment.
- The letter culminates in worship (vv. 24–25). After exposing the danger of compromise and calling believers to remain faithful, Jude directs attention to God's ability to preserve His people and bring them safely into His presence.

Facilitating the discussion

For question 4, emphasize that building ourselves up in the faith is not a call to self-reliance. It involves growing in our understanding of Scripture and encouraging one another within the Christian community. Likewise, praying in the Holy Spirit means praying in dependence on and alignment with the Spirit, rather than pursuing a particular emotional experience.

For question 5, an illustration may be helpful: A child does not create a parent's love by remaining close, but remaining near a loving parent is how the child continues to enjoy the comfort, guidance, and care of that relationship. The illustration is imperfect, but it helps distinguish earning God's love from living in the enjoyment of it.

For questions 6, 8, and 9, help the group recognize that not everyone experiencing spiritual difficulty needs the same response. Some need patient encouragement, some need gentle correction, and others need urgent intervention. All should encounter believers who speak the truth with sincere love.

For question 11, linger on the richness of Jude's closing promise. Jesus does not merely rescue us from condemnation. God intends to bring us into His glorious presence, blameless and with great joy. That is the ultimate destination of every believer.

For question 12, draw the entire series together. Jude's message is not merely, "Try harder to avoid compromise." It is a call to contend courageously, live faithfully, show mercy compassionately, and rest confidently in the God who holds His people fast.

Cross-references: John 10:27–30; John 15:1–11; Romans 8:28–39; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3–5; 2 Peter 3:17–18.

Prayer prompts: Pray for perseverance in faith, dependence on the Holy Spirit, compassion toward those who doubt, courage to rescue those who are wandering,

and joyful confidence in God's promise to preserve His people.